

Serial No. 10/715,962

**Remarks**

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and § 103***

Claim 1, as amended, recites a system that includes, *inter alia*, a central control unit coupled to at least two control apparatuses of at least two medically applicable instruments. The central control unit is coupled to input and/or output connections of the at least two control apparatuses. A central input device and a central output device are coupled to the central control unit via a bus, wherein the bus provides electrical separation between the central input device and/or the central output display device and the central control unit. The central input device, the central output device, and the at least two medically applicable instruments are positioned in an operating theater, and the central control unit and the at least two control apparatuses are positioned outside the operating theater.

Wang et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest the claimed system in which a the central input device, the central output device, and the at least two medically applicable instruments are positioned in an operating theater, and the central control unit and the at least two control apparatuses are positioned outside the operating theater. None of the other cited references, including Helmreich et al., Howell et al., and Cochran et al., taken alone or in combination, cure this deficiency of Wang et al.

For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 6, and 9-10. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

In addition, Wang et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest a central input device and a central output device coupled to the central control unit via a bus, wherein the bus provides electrical separation between the central input device and/or the central output display device and the central control unit. Page 3 of the final Office Action points to column 3, lines 6-57 of Wang et al. for a teaching of a central output device coupled to the central control unit via a bus, wherein the bus provides electrical separation between the central input device and/or the central output display device and the central control unit. However, a close reading of Wang et al., as understood, fails to mention anything about a bus, let alone the recited features of claim 1.

Serial No. 10/715,962

In addition, page 6 of the Office Action points to column 7, lines 43-47 of Wang et al. for a teaching of a central output device coupled to the central control unit via a bus, wherein the bus provides electrical separation between the central input device and/or the central output display device and the central control unit. It is unclear how this portion of Wang et al. pertains to the recited features of claim 1.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 6, 9-10 and 19 dependent therefrom distinguish patentably over the references of record. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim 20, as amended, recites a system that includes, *inter alia*, a central control unit coupled to input and output connections of at least two medically applicable instruments via at least two control apparatuses, the at least two control apparatuses having different input and/or output specifications. No more than one output display device coupled to the central control unit via a bus. The central control unit converts different display information and/or image formats from the at least two control apparatuses into a predetermined, defined image format such that output data from the one control apparatuses is displayed on the no more than one output display device.

Wang et al., taken alone or in combination with the other references of record, fails to disclose or suggest a central unit coupled to input and output connections of at least two medically applicable instruments via at least two control apparatuses, where the at least two control apparatuses having different input and/or output specifications. In addition, the references of record, taken alone or in combination fail to disclose or fairly suggest a central control unit that converts different display information and/or image formats from the at least two control apparatuses into a predetermined, defined image format such that output data from the one control apparatuses is displayed on the no more than one output display device.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 and claim 22 dependent therefrom distinguish patentably over the references of record. Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

New claim 24 recites a central interface unit coupled to input and output connections of at least two control apparatuses having different input and output specifications, wherein the central interface unit includes at least one processor that converts different display information and/or image formats from the control apparatuses into a predetermined, defined image format for display on a single output display device.

Serial No. 10/715,962

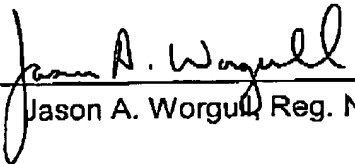
It is respectfully submitted that claim 24 and 25 dependent therefrom distinguish patentably over the references of record.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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